

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 13, 21 and 22 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A hand stamp comprising:

a frame including a first rib longitudinally arranged thereon, said first rib being integral with said frame and flaring outwardly therefrom such that said first rib has a relatively small width at a location adjacent to said frame and a relatively large width at a location remote from said frame;

a case slidably mounted on said frame, said case including a first groove oppositely flared with respect to said first rib to conform with the flared configuration thereof, said first rib and said first groove being sized and shaped to facilitate relative longitudinal movement and secure mounting of said case on said frame;

a platen arranged for movement with said case along said frame; and

a marking structure arranged on said platen and being movable therewith between a rest position and a printing position.

2. (original) The hand stamp of claim 1, wherein said frame further comprises a second rib longitudinally arranged thereon, said second rib being integral with said frame and flaring outwardly therefrom, said case further comprising a second groove, said second rib being arranged within said second groove, said second rib and said second groove being sized and shaped to facilitate slidable longitudinal movement and secure mounting of said case on said frame.

3. (original) The hand stamp of claim 2, wherein said first rib comprises a first length and said second rib comprises a second length, said first length being greater than said second length.

4. (original) The hand stamp of claim 3, wherein said frame comprises opposing sides and two sets of first and second

ribs, the first set of said first and second ribs being arranged on one of said opposing sides, and the second set of said first and second ribs being arranged on the other of said opposing sides; and said case also comprising opposing sides and two sets of first and second grooves wherein said first said of said first and second grooves is arranged on one of said opposing sides, and the second set of said first and second grooves is arranged on the other of said opposing sides, each set of said first and second ribs being arranged within a corresponding one of said sets of said first and second grooves.

5. (original) The hand stamp of claim 4, wherein said first and second sets of said first and second ribs extend parallel to each other.

6. (original) The hand stamp of claim 1, wherein said first rib is molded to said frame.

7. (original) The hand stamp of claim 6, wherein said first rib comprises opposing sides, at least one of said opposing sides flaring outwardly from said frame.

8. (original) The hand stamp of claim 1, wherein said case comprises a generally cylindrical configuration.

9. (original) The hand stamp of claim 1, wherein said marking structure comprises a rubber marking structure.

10. (original) The hand stamp of claim 1, further comprising an ink pad arranged within said case, said marking structure being movable between said rest position where it is in contact with said ink pad and said printing position where it is remote from said ink pad and in contact with a surface to be imprinted.

11. (original) The hand stamp of claim 1 further comprising a locking mechanism operative to selectively lock said case in a desire position relative to said frame.

12. (original) The hand stamp of claim 4, wherein said frame has a bottom end adapted to be placed adjacent to a

surface to be imprinted, and a top end remote from said bottom end and a length defined by the distance between said top and bottom ends, each of said first ribs extending longitudinally along substantially the entire length of said frame on opposing sides thereof.

13. (currently amended) A hand stamp comprising:

a frame including opposing sides, a bottom end adapted to be placed adjacent to a surface to be imprinted and a top end remote from said bottom end, and a length defined by the distance between said top and bottom ends, a pair of first ribs, one of said first ribs arranged on one of said opposing sides and the other of said first ribs arranged on the other of said opposing sides, each of said pair of opposing ribs flaring outwardly from said frame such that said first ribs have a relatively small width at a location adjacent said frame and a relatively large width at a location remote from said frame;

a case slidably mounted on said frame, said case including a pair of first grooves oppositely flared with respect to said first ribs to conform with the flared configuration thereof, said pair of first ribs being arranged within respective ones of said pair of first grooves, said pair of first ribs and said pair of first grooves being sized and shaped to facilitate slidable longitudinal movement and secure mounting of said case on said frame;

a platen arranged for movement with said case along said frame; and

a marking structure arranged on said platen and being movable therewith between a rest position and a printing position.

14. (original) The hand stamp of claim 13, wherein said frame further comprises a pair of second ribs arranged on respective ones of said opposing sides of said frame, each of said second ribs flaring outwardly from said frame, said case

further comprising a pair of second grooves, one of said second ribs being arranged within one of said second grooves, and the other said second ribs being arranged within the other of said second grooves, each of said second ribs and said second grooves being sized and shaped to facilitate longitudinal movement and secure mounting of said case on said frame.

15. (original) The hand stamp of claim 14, wherein each of said first ribs comprises a first length and each of said second ribs comprise a second length, said first length being greater than said second length.

16. (original) The hand stamp of claim 15, wherein said pairs of said first and second ribs are molded to said frame.

17. (original) The hand stamp of claim 13, wherein said case comprises a generally cylindrical configuration.

18. (original) The hand stamp of claim 13, wherein said marking structure comprises a rubber marking structure.

19. (original) The hand stamp of claim 13 further comprising an ink pad arranged within said case, said marking structure being movable between said rest position where it is in contact with said ink pad and said printing position where it is remote from said ink pad and in contact with a surface to be imprinted.

20. (original) The hand stamp of claim 14, wherein said opposing pairs of said first and second ribs extend longitudinally along substantially the entire length of said frame on opposing sides thereof.

21. (currently amended) A hand stamp comprising:
a frame including at least one groove extending longitudinally thereon;

a case slidably mounted on the frame, said case including at least one rib extending longitudinally thereon, said at least one rib being integral with said ~~frame~~case and flaring outwardly therefrom such that said at least one rib has a

relatively small width at a location adjacent said case and a relatively larger width at a location remote from said case, said at least one groove being oppositely flared with respect to said at least one rib to conform with the flared configuration thereof, said at least one rib and said at least one groove being sized and shaped to facilitate relative longitudinal movement and secure mounting said case on said frame;

a platen arranged for movement with said case along said frame; and

a marking structure arranged on said platen and being movable therewith between a rest position and a printing position.

22. (currently amended) A hand stamp comprising:

a frame including a first groove longitudinally arranged thereon;

a case slidably mounted on said frame, said case including a first rib longitudinally arranged thereon, said first rib being integral with said frame and flaring outwardly therefrom such that said first rib has relatively small width at a location adjacent said case and a relatively large width at a location remote from said case, said first groove being oppositely flared with respect to said first rib to conform with the flared configuration thereof, said case being slidably mounted on said frame, said first rib and said first groove being sized and shaped to facilitate longitudinal movement and secure mounting of said case on said frame;

a platen arranged for movement with said case along said frame; and

a marking structure arranged on said platen and being movable therewith between a rest position and a printing position.

23. (original) The hand stamp of claim 22 wherein said case further comprises a second rib longitudinally arranged

thereon, said second rib being integral with said case and flaring outwardly therefrom, said frame further comprising a second groove longitudinally arranged thereon, said second rib being arranged within said second groove, said second rib and said second groove being sized and shaped to facilitate slidable longitudinal movement and secure mounting of said case on said frame.

24. (original) The hand stamp of claim 23 wherein said ribs comprise opposing sides, at least one of said opposing sides of each of said ribs, flaring outwardly from said case.